

E1-419
CDUSDA
NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE

Project as described will have NO EFFECT on
prime farmlands or wetlands on agricultural
lands. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE
MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT PLANS FOR
REVIEW.

Douglas D. Lohr
State Conservationist Acting

JUL 21 2003
Date

July 15, 2003

Steve Chick
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall No.
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

Re: *Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 405X);
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company
Abandonment from Pawnee, Nebraska to Endicott, Nebraska*

Attorneys at Law

311 South Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, Illinois
60606-6677
Tel 312.360.6000

Michael A. Smith
Senior Counsel
Direct 312 360 6724
Fax 312 360 6598
msmith@
freebornpeters.com

Dear Mr. Chick:

On or after August 4, 2003, we are filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Petition for Exemption seeking authority to abandon railroad line between railroad milepost 57.80 near Pawnee, Pawnee County, Nebraska and milepost 117.03 near Endicott, Jefferson County, Nebraska which traverses through United States Postal ZIP Codes 68420, 68323, 68381, 68466, 68310, 68415, 68342, 68452 and 68350. Attached are an Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504, Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, telephone (202) 565-1538 and refer to the above Docket Number. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA, with a copy to our representative would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representative in this matter is Michael Smith who may be contacted by telephone at (312) 360-6724 or by mail at 311 S. Wacker Dr, Suite 3000, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6677.

Sincerely,

Michael Smith
Michael A. Smith

Chicago

Springfield

JUL 18 2003

Freeborn & Peters*Attorneys at Law*

311 South Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606-6677
312.360.6000
Fax 312.360.6520

FAX COVER SHEET

PLEASE DELIVER TO

Christa Dean
The Surface Transportation Board
(202) 565-9000

DATE

December 31, 2003

TIME**TOTAL PAGES WITH COVER**

2

SENT FROM

Brian Nettles
direct dial: 312.360.6336
return fax: 312 360.6596

CLIENT/MATTER NO.

MESSAGE

Enclosed is a response from the Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding the affects the abandonment may have on prime agriculture the for the Pawnee, NE to Endicott, NE abandonment, AB-6 (Sub-No. 405X)

OTHER OFFICES

217 East Monroe Street
Suite 101
Springfield, IL 62701-1147
217.535.1060
Fax 217.535.1069

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

The documents accompanying this fax transmission may contain confidential information belonging to the sender which is legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please immediately notify us by telephone to arrange for the return of the transmitted documents to us. Thank you.

**IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL
THE PAGES TRANSMITTED,
CALL FOR ASSISTANCE ASAP
312.360.6000**